

# city college news

## Frank, a man of many words, bids farewell to George Brown College

By Frank Sorochinsky

When I announced my retirement, earlier this year, I said something about my leaving George Brown that, for me, is worth repeating:

"I have never, in my entire life, felt so connected to a cause, and I am grateful and proud to have been a part of it. Our vision as Toronto's City College is a strong and enduring one. It draws on our past strengths, stimulates new ones and is energized by our urban environment. Our students bring us challenges, opportunities and inspiration like nowhere else. Our faculty, support staff and administrators are the best in the college system. We are blessed with a Board of Governors extremely committed and capable of providing the governance our College needs and deserves."

My first year in this job wasn't much fun. The second year wasn't any fun at all!

Digging out of a serious financial hole never is. After the first few shovels, the hole seemingly gets even bigger. It took actions previously unnecessary or avoided; it took holding the course; it took the hope and expectation that getting out of it would put us on higher ground. Everyone across the College, directly or indirectly, helped to bring about the recovery that provided the platform for subsequent successes.

Since then, turning our attention to growth and improvement has accomplished so much including:

- renewed emphasis on academic excellence and student services,
- a new commitment to staff development,
- strong enrolment and the ability to grant bachelor degrees,
- new and renewed facilities,
- strengthened commitment to diversity and internationalization,
- expanding Continuing Education,
- exciting new partnerships with educational institutions, employers and the broader community and



A surprised Frank Sorochinsky is at a loss for words at his retirement party on Dec. 10.

• solidifying and expanding our position as the Toronto City College — just to name a few!

All of this has taken the commitment, passion, creativity, energy and hard work of both long-serving staff and those who have recently joined us.

I'm sure I will remember being a part of these achievements — and thanks to a selective memory, won't remember those not-so-successful ventures. But, most of all, I will remember a number of moments, small but poignant, that put a human face and soul to the experience. To cite just a few:

- The worried and sometimes angry faces on many during the layoffs and early stages of financial recovery;
- The determination and enthusiasm of staff working on their vision for the College in the Colony Hotel Ballroom in October 1999;

- The smiles and wide-eyes on many faces when our College was selected as one of five Ontario colleges designated to have up to 15 per cent of programs at the Bachelor Degree level;
- The daily kibitzing with maintenance and caretaking staff;
- The enthusiasm of staff and students during Technology in The City events;
- The rolling of eyes at management committee meetings on the rare occasion that I pontificated;
- The pride on the faces of teachers honoured by their students at the Crystal Apple Awards;
- The bewildered look of students entering the College for the first time, and their looks of accomplishment at Convocation;
- The pride for staff accomplishments on the one hand and the deep concern after hearing Stephen Lewis describe the horror of HIV/AIDS in Africa on Staff Celebration Day;
- The joy of staff moving into the new facilities and their show of tolerance when it wasn't easy.

I could go on and on but I have just one last thought. When I announced my retirement I said that I would do everything I could to help with the transition for the lucky person who gets to be your next president. Of course, we now know that Anne Sado will be that person.

Having spent a fair amount of time with Anne over the last few months, I would like to close by saying that I feel you are very lucky to have her as your next president. I have every confidence that, together, you will bring our College to new heights of educational quality and caring for our students and provide serious leadership and contribution to the community.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

# Smiling faces, raised glasses and merry memories



Cathy Guidi, Mary Raspis, Munir Noormohamed, Michelle McCarthy are all smiles at the Centre for Continuous Learning Holiday Celebration held on Dec. 12 at the Fantasy Farms.



The winners of the Continuing Education teaching awards are (standing from left to right) Linda Pletzer, Phillip Daniels and Thom Benson; (sitting from left to right) Sandra Biback. The awards portion of the Centre for Continuous Learning's Ho



Sharon Kinasz (left), Associate Registrar and her husband, Roman enjoy the company of Patricia Sturino (right), Student Services Officer in the Faculty of Technology and her husband, Frank at the Staff Holiday Gala.



PHOTO BY ELISABETH HENRIQUES



All eyes were on this and 23 other candy-coated gingerbread creations at the first annual Chef School Gingerbread Competition, held on Dec. 10. For a list of the winners and more photos, please go to [http://www.gbrownic.on.ca/chefschool/news\\_ginger.html](http://www.gbrownic.on.ca/chefschool/news_ginger.html).

# ...s made for happy holidays at George Brown College



From left to right) Jan Goudswaard, Arnie Achtman, Maureen Greenstein, Patricia Poutanen, Klaus Mueller, James Howard, Leo Tampaiopoulos and Holiday Celebration recognized teaching excellence in Continuing Education.



College staff raise their glasses to Frank during his Dec. 10 retirement party at Casa Loma.



In Smirninsky holds a sign that says it all.



Well-wishers from the College write their farewell messages to Frank at his retirement party.



Neil McGillivray, senior marketing officer, shares a laugh with Frank.



Rod Macgillivray, GBC Foundation Chair (left), Michael Cooke, VP of Academic Excellence & Student Success, and Peter Barnes, Board of Governors Chair (right) present Frank with a cheque for a bursary fund established in his name. The whopping \$150,000 total had yet to include an additional \$30,000.

PHOTO BY GLEN BROWN

PHOTO BY GLEN BROWN

## A "peace of cake" goes a long way

Though fruitcake is not always the most popular Christmas present under the tree, this traditional holiday dessert will be a priceless gift from home for 3,800 Canadian peacekeepers overseas.

The Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism joined forces with the Canadian military to send 400 fruitcakes to troops in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone through the annual project, Operation Santa Claus. College chefs and volunteers spent the weekend baking and packaging the cakes before handing them off to the Canadian Forces on Dec. 15.

"At this time of year, the troops feel the strain of being away from their families," said Shirley Penny, amenities co-ordinator for the Canadian Forces Personal Support Agency (CFPSA). "This reassures them that the Canadian people haven't forgotten them."

The spouses of deployed troops started Operation Santa Claus before CFPSA began helping them, Penny explained. Every year, CFPSA asks Canadian companies to donate gifts to send to Canadian troops like candy, coffee, baseball caps, shampoo and toothbrushes.

Penny was looking for fruitcakes to include in the gift packages when she received a call from Barb Shopland, project manager for the Faculty of Hospitality

and Tourism, asking if the College could send their cakes through Operation Santa Claus.

"I was really pleased to hear from George Brown. It was just meant to be that Barb phoned," Penny said.

It took about three weeks to get Peace of Cake off the ground with the help of Chef Ian Gallacher and a number of student and faculty volunteers.

"At first it was just a project that needed to be done but in the end, it was simple and meaningful," said Gallacher. "That was my Christmas."

Lieut. Aida Gabriel, a George Brown graduate, knows what it's like to be so far away from family and friends when deployed overseas.

"When you are out there, mail is like a piece of gold," said Gabriel, a recruiting officer. "The troops will be very happy with the gesture."

The fruitcakes, along with greeting cards signed by the College and e-mails from the community, are on their way to Canadian Forces Base Trenton where they will be loaded onto a Hercules aircraft and delivered to the troops just in time for Christmas, Penny said, adding that she hopes Peace of Cake will become an Operation Santa Claus tradition.

"I can see it being a long partnership."



John Walker, Dean of Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, Barbara Shopland, Hospitality and Tourism Project Manager, student volunteers and members of the Canadian Forces help to load the fruitcakes onto a counter truck outside the Hospitality and Tourism building.

## Around George Brown

On Dec. 8, students in the Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor Advocate program held a memorial and march to honour the victims of the Montreal Massacre and to raise awareness about violence against women and children. About 150 people attended the service and listened to the personal stories of abuse survivors, lit candles for women who have died at the hands of an abusive partner and shared a moment of silence for the 14 women who were killed 14 years ago in Montreal.

From Dec. 1 to 5, paintings and drawings by Latin American children were on display at the Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre through Early Childhood Development at George Brown College and Ryerson University and in conjunction with Pueblo Canada, a non-governmental organization working with Latin America's poorest children. The ART WORKS! exhibit, which has been on tour across the GTA at schools, colleges, universities and community centers, is an innovative approach to childhood development through artistic and creative processes. For more information and photos, please go to [http://www.gbrownnc.on.ca/earlychildhood/news\\_pueblo.html](http://www.gbrownnc.on.ca/earlychildhood/news_pueblo.html).

The 20th Annual George Brown Staff Volleyball Tournament, held on Dec. 4 in the St. James campus gym, was a smashing success with 12 teams participating from different areas of the College. The Community Services team was victorious for the second time in three years, beating Hospitality's Spiked Spirits 16-14 in the final.

On Dec. 15, the George Brown College Seniors' Association presented three second-year Nursing students with the Fred Day bursary awards. Tracey Arthur and Paul Tyliros of the Diploma Nursing program and Jeruto Kibet of the Practical Nursing program were given \$500 awards for their academic excellence, financial need and compassion in caring for the elderly.

## Upcoming events

### Student Centre Grand Opening

Jan. 8, 2004 (beginning at 8 a.m.)

The new Student Centre at Casa Loma campus will be celebrating its grand opening and welcoming new and old students back with a full day of entertainment, prizes and giveaways. Shuttle buses will take students from Ryerson and St. James campuses up to Casa Loma.

### New Staff Orientation

Jan. 22, 2004 (1 to 7 p.m.)

All new College employees are invited to meet their colleagues and senior managers, learn more about College services, participate in a scavenger hunt and finish off the day with cocktails. New staff are asked to RSVP to [staffdev@gbrownnc.on.ca](mailto:staffdev@gbrownnc.on.ca) by Jan. 16, 2004.

### Health Informatics Symposium

Feb. 4, 2004 (3 to 5 p.m.)

George Brown College's Centres for Nursing and Health Sciences will host a symposium on technology and its role in healthcare at the John Bassett Theatre. To RSVP, please call (416) 415-5000, ext. 2493.

# city college news

is a publication of the Marketing and Communications Department, George Brown College at 200 King St. East, Room 542E, Toronto, ON M5T 2T9  
Story ideas?

Contact writer Carolyn Wong at 416-415-5000 ext. 4476 or [cwong@gbrownnc.on.ca](mailto:cwong@gbrownnc.on.ca).

Editor: Rosalie Starkey 416-415-5000 ext. 4842 or [rstarkey@gbrownnc.on.ca](mailto:rstarkey@gbrownnc.on.ca)  
Contents copyright George Brown College, 2004.